

3. PARKS

Common Citizen Concerns

- Disinvestment in parks.
- Difficulty of access to park areas from neighborhoods.
- Shortage of playing fields.
- Lack of park educational programs.

Actions

- **20 miles of a new, continuous Anacostia Riverwalk and Trail** from the Washington Channel to the Maryland border, on both sides of the Anacostia River, including the Southwest promenade and the Fort Circle Trail connection.
- **Five new regional and neighborhood-scale waterfront parks at Poplar Point**, Near Southeast, Southwest, and Hill East waterfronts, totaling over 100 acres.
- **A cultural park at Poplar Point** that includes gardens, commemorative spaces, an amphitheater, a major cultural institution, and a new National Park Service visitor's center.
- **Over 200 acres of enhanced parks and recreation facilities** including a community fitness and recreation center at Anacostia Park.
- **Approximately 20 acres of festival grounds**, including a Sports Campus in the RFK stadium area
- **New vibrant gathering spaces and plazas** along the Southwest waterfront serving as local, regional, and national destinations.
- **A common identity for the Anacostia RiverParks** through signage and marketing.
- **Six east-of-the-River gateways** connecting neighborhoods to waterfront parks on both sides of the Anacostia River.

The Anacostia River's potential to serve as an exceptional and versatile park environment is greater than that of any other area in Washington, D.C. The vision for the Anacostia RiverParks creates a unifying identity for the 1,800 acres of open space along the river. It identifies over 100 acres of additional park linkages and areas of community access, while proposing enhanced and expanded recreational facilities along the waterfront. It outlines 20 miles of interconnected riverfront trails and bikeways joined by a park road. And it shows how to bring environmental sensitivity to future development near the river's banks.

One hundred years ago, the McMillan Commission drafted a plan for a city-wide system of open spaces. The National Mall, Rock Creek Park, and the parkways and open spaces along the Potomac River are among the legacies of that effort. Today, the vision for the Anacostia remains the only uncompleted segment. While several individual parks are in place (e.g., the National Arboretum, the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Langston Golf Course, and the Tidal Basin), discontinuity, insufficient access, limited recreational and community facilities, and contaminated land have prevented the entire vision from being fully realized. The dichotomy between Anacostia Park and Rock Creek Park is a stark reminder of the inequities that persist in the nation's capital.

With the potential for so many acres of public open space and 22 miles of linear shoreline, the RiverParks' diverse environments encompass wetlands and wilds along its upper reaches and urban esplanades along the Navy Yard and the Washington Channel. The RiverParks will offer:

- New urban parks at the center of new residential neighborhoods, including the Meadows at the Hill East waterfront and the Canal Blocks in the Near Southeast
- A new destination park for culture, history, and celebration at Poplar Point.
- A comprehensive sports and recreation program with state-of-the-art fields and facilities at Anacostia Park and the RFK Stadium campus.
- A national model for nature conservancy and ecology along the Anacostia waterfront – particularly at Kingman and Heritage Islands.
- A continuous bicycle and pedestrian Riverwalk trail system on both sides of the Anacostia River.

Future linkages to sister landscapes, like the Upper Anacostia River Trail in Maryland, the Escarpment Trail, the Watts Branch Trail, and the Fort Circle Trail, as well as the National Mall and Potomac River, are essential components of the RiverParks. This plan identifies the necessary connections, focusing on the local streets and stream tributaries that can link the neighborhoods to the RiverParks. It also identifies the gateways (e.g., overpasses, underpasses, pedestrian crossings, and even sections of lowered highways) that are essential for more convenient access to this great recreational resource.

The Anacostia RiverParks can collectively form Washington's third outstanding stretch of public open space and, along with the Potomac River and Rock Creek Park, become one of our city's most treasured places. This Framework Plan posits an image of a splendid green whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. It will bring long deserved investment in public parks to serve communities in desperate need of open space and cultural resources. The Anacostia RiverParks will do no less than shift the center of public space in 21st century Washington eastward, anchoring it around the Anacostia River.

A Great Waterfront Park System

59	The Vision
60	The Parks Agenda
62	A Superb New National and Local Park System
64	A New Park System Expands a Citywide Network
66	Recreation at the Anacostia RiverParks: Providing a Wider Range of Activities
68	A Continuous Riverwalk of Many Moods
70	Experiencing the Riverwalk: Loops and Connections
72	Creating the RiverParks Network
74	Building the Anacostia RiverParks Network One Park at a Time

The Anacostia RiverParks: A Park System Worthy of the Nation

THE PARKS AGENDA

Reinvesting in the existing landscape to create the RiverParks – a system of interconnected and continuous waterfront parks joined by the

Anacostia Riverwalk and Trail – will provide civic spaces worthy of a great capital city and will bring people to the shoreline.



“When I go there now, I imagine how it will look when we are done. I see a haven for swimming and hiking, a habitat for bald eagles and catfish alike. I hear the echoes of children laughing as they bike across new bridges and couples relaxing on blankets at Poplar Point. I see people living in waterfront neighborhoods, such as Near Southeast, where \$400 million is being invested in homes for low-income families. I see people coming from all over the city to dine, shop, and work. I see a revitalized Pennsylvania Avenue, boat docks, museums, and public transportation to bring people there. I see a river that was once a national embarrassment, become a national treasure.”

Mayor Anthony A. Williams,
State of the District Speech, 2002

Park Access

- Provide multi-modal access to RiverParks.
- Design transportation access projects as neighborhood gateways to the park system.
- Integrate landscaped trails, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists, into the existing waterfront park access points.
- Improve and coordinate way-finding to waterfront parks.

Park Connections

- Create a continuous, regional RiverParks system with a unique identity.
- Connect isolated park areas with a continuous Riverwalk and park road.
- Unify signage and naming, and improve way-finding within the RiverPark.
- Encourage water-based transit and recreation.

Active Uses

- Balance regional and local recreational uses.
- Coordinate places for large-scale civic gatherings with transit and infrastructure.
- Incorporate more water-oriented recreation.
- Coordinate active recreation areas with transit and school access.

Passive Uses

- Integrate Riverwalk and park programming with wetland creation, habitat, and edge improvements.
- Enhance existing facilities and local uses of the parks.
- Incorporate local history and heritage in park elements, programming, and the Riverwalk through signage and public art.

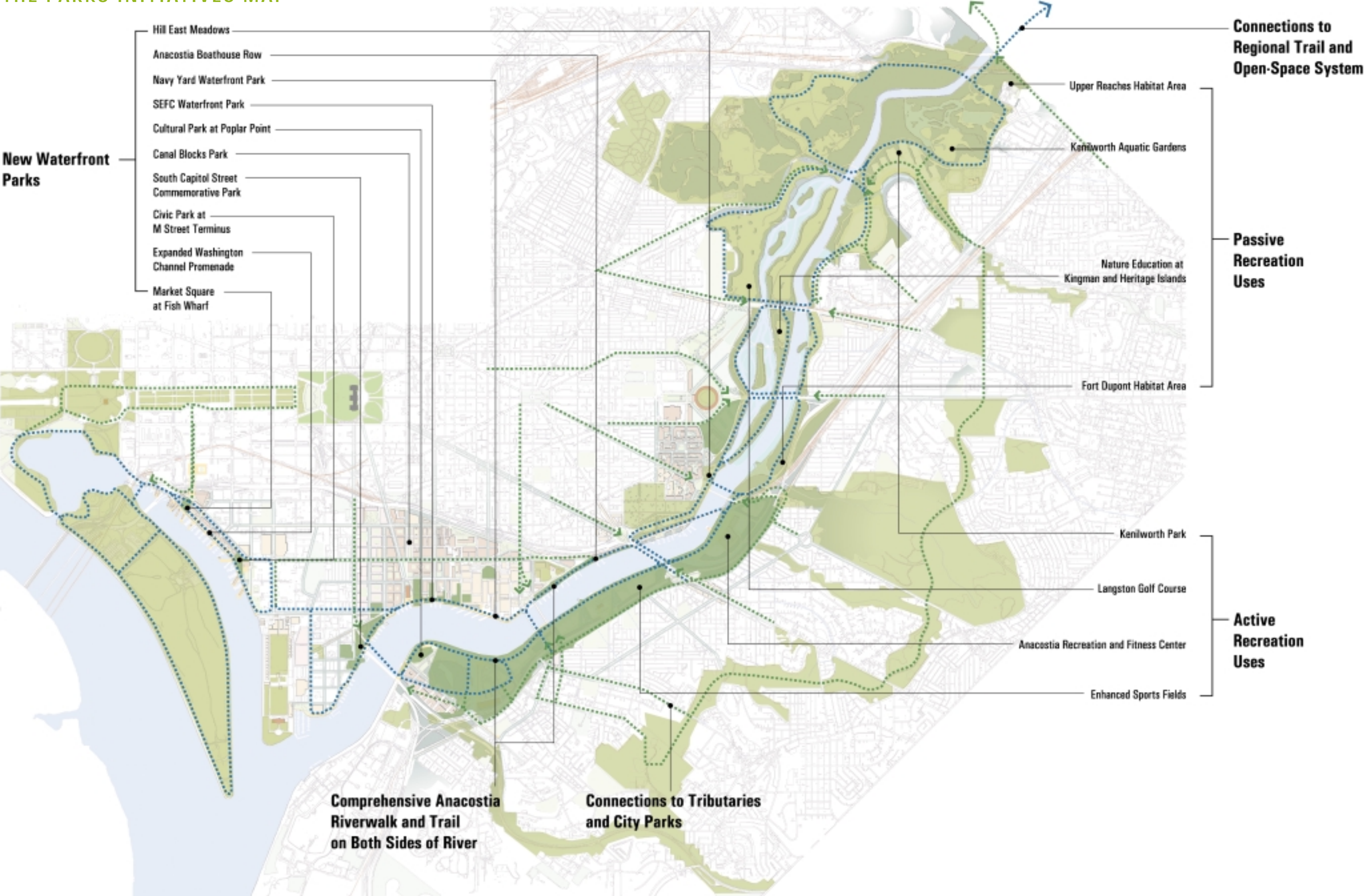
Landscape Quality

- Highlight the natural basin of the river, its geography and views.
- Create a variety of environments at the water's edge.
- Use local species plants and material in park design, when possible.
- Establish sustainable standards for materials and landscaping.

Operations and Maintenance

- Coordinate future inter-agency management of park resources.
- Encourage volunteer help and stewardship to maintain park environment.
- Promote “Green Marina” management.
- Introduce incentives for private contributions.

THE PARKS INITIATIVES MAP



A Superb New National and Local Park System

“Over 20 miles of Riverwalk trails and promenades – all interconnected in easily traversed loops of various lengths.”

The plans for the Anacostia RiverParks represent the most ambitious vision for expanding Washington's public realm since the Mall and its great monuments and museums were laid out a century ago. But unlike plans that consider the public realm exclusively, the RiverParks forges connections to our city's proposed and existing neighborhoods to enhance the everyday lives of Washingtonians. Specifically, the RiverParks will be:

- A remarkably diverse river landscape offering a wide range of riverfront experiences, from the most actively urban (at places like the Southwest waterfront and the Navy Yard) to the most pastoral and sublime (in the Upper Reaches) – all with connections to other parks, greenways, and regional open-space corridors.
- An aggregate of some of the nation's most unique public environments, including the Tidal Basin and Hains Point in the Southwest and the National Arboretum and Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in the Northeast.
- A fitting setting for future monuments and memorials of both local and national interest.
- The backbone of vital waterfront neighborhoods and historic districts that evoke the African-American heritage of our nation's capital.
- A park system that brings recreational resources (e.g., boating facilities, playing fields, picnic grounds, and playgrounds) to local neighborhoods.
- The most actively enjoyed stretch of water in Washington, D.C., providing its residents with a clean river, boat landings and moorings, water-based shuttles, fishing spots, and other facilities.
- A corridor for multiple modes of transportation, such as light rail, walking, cycling, and water taxis.
- A setting for new cultural attractions, like museums, performances, and celebrations.
- Over 20 miles of Riverwalk trails and promenades – all interconnected in easily traversed loops of various lengths

- A conduit to Heritage and Kingman Islands and other underused natural areas along the river.
- A waterfront of varied edge conditions, from embankments and sea walls to meadows and wetlands hosting a rich array of habitats.
- A setting that portrays the history of some of the nation's most historic military institutions, including Fort McNair and the Navy Yard.
- A catalyst for reinvestment throughout Washington's eastern region.



1 Market Square at Fish Wharf.



2 Washington Channel public piers.



3 Poplar Point Park.



4 Southeast Federal Center Waterfront Park.

8 Kenilworth Park and Pedestrian Bridge to National Arboretum.



7 Kingman Island Nature Center.



5 An enhanced Boathouse Row.



6 Hill East Meadows.



A Link in the National Trail System



The Riverwalk will connect to other local and regional trails.

The Anacostia Riverwalk could become the Washington-area segment of the East Coast Greenway System, adding nearly nine miles to the system.

The East Coast Greenway will be the nation's first long-distance, city-to-city, multi-modal transportation corridor for cyclists, hikers, and other non-motorized users. The route will be at least 80 percent off-road, using waterfront esplanades, park paths, abandoned railroads, canal towpaths, and parkway corridors. It will serve cyclists, hikers, skaters, equestrians, people in wheelchairs, and other non-motorized users. The trail will run from Maine to Florida.

The route will be an urban alternative to the Appalachian Trail, located in the shadows of skyscrapers and within suburban greenspace, but also in surprisingly rural areas that still exist between our east coast cities. Visit the ECG website at <http://www.greenway.org>.

A New Park System Expands a Citywide Network

“The RiverParks will build upon and enhance this current park system, creating a larger, more cohesive system of open spaces.”

Encompassing all public park lands along the Anacostia River and the Washington Channel owned by the District of Columbia, the National Park Service, and other land-owners, the Anacostia RiverParks will provide diverse recreational and cultural offerings to both residents and visitors.

The Anacostia RiverParks’ Place in Washington’s Open-Space Systems

Washington has five distinctive public open-space systems: the Potomac River (from Great Falls to Mount Vernon), Rock Creek Park, the Mall and the Monumental Core Parks, East Potomac Park, and the Fort Circle Parks. Nearly all of these areas – almost 6,400 acres of parkland – are under the control of the National Park Service.

These park areas contribute to Washington’s unique urban identity. The C&O Canal National Historic Path and the adjacent Capital Crescent Trail, for example, bring people into contact with a historic example of early federal transportation planning and engineering. Rock Creek Park, a natural wooded ravine, cuts through the heart of the city’s Northwest neighborhoods, creating a natural sanctuary for joggers, hikers, and walkers. Moreover, the Mall and Monumental Core Parks provide fabulous settings for national civic celebrations and unparalleled cultural attractions.

The Anacostia RiverParks will be the largest recreation area in Washington, D.C., encompassing all public parklands along the Anacostia River. It will also be the most richly diverse in terms of setting, activities, and amenities.

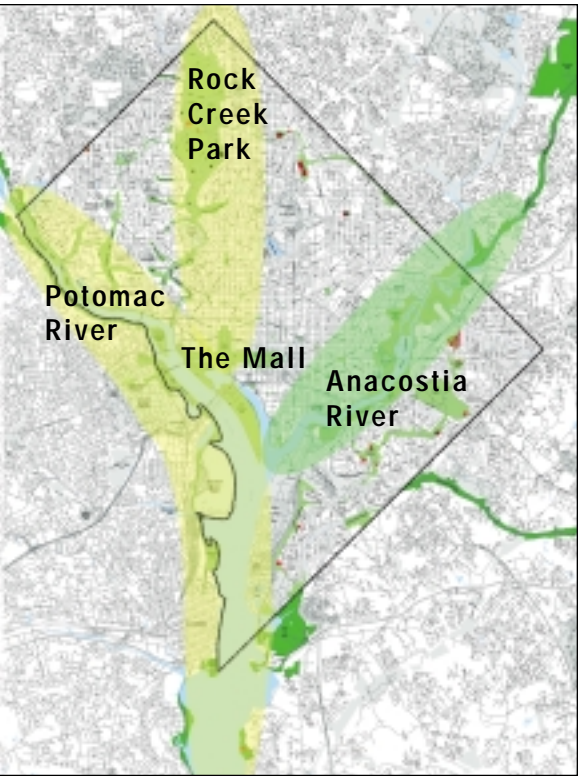
The existing parks along the Anacostia, mainly Kenilworth Park and Anacostia Park, line the east side of the river from the Maryland border to Poplar Point. They offer recreational playing fields and other facilities, as well as nature trails and education programs – all in a waterside setting with views of the river and the city beyond.

The RiverParks will build upon and enhance this current park system, creating a larger, more cohesive system of open spaces. Specifically, the RiverParks will offer 20 miles of continuous Riverwalk, more than 100 acres of new parks, and over 500 acres for wildlife habitat, nature-based recreation, and education programs. They will also provide premier traditional and water sports recreation facilities, as well as first-rate festival grounds, which can host large city-oriented events, such as fairs and concerts.

Further, the RiverParks will furnish the surrounding neighborhoods with improved access. The Riverwalk trail system will connect parts of Washington now separated by industrial spaces, abandoned land, and bridges designed only for automobiles. For example, it will provide a continuous route between the Tidal Basin and the Frederick Douglass House, between the Southwest waterfront and the Navy Yard promenade, and between Kenilworth Park and the National Arboretum. The Riverwalk will also be a valuable transportation alternative to automobile congestion and pollution, serving as a commuting route between new waterfront neighborhoods and large employment centers, such as the Navy Yard and South Capitol Street.

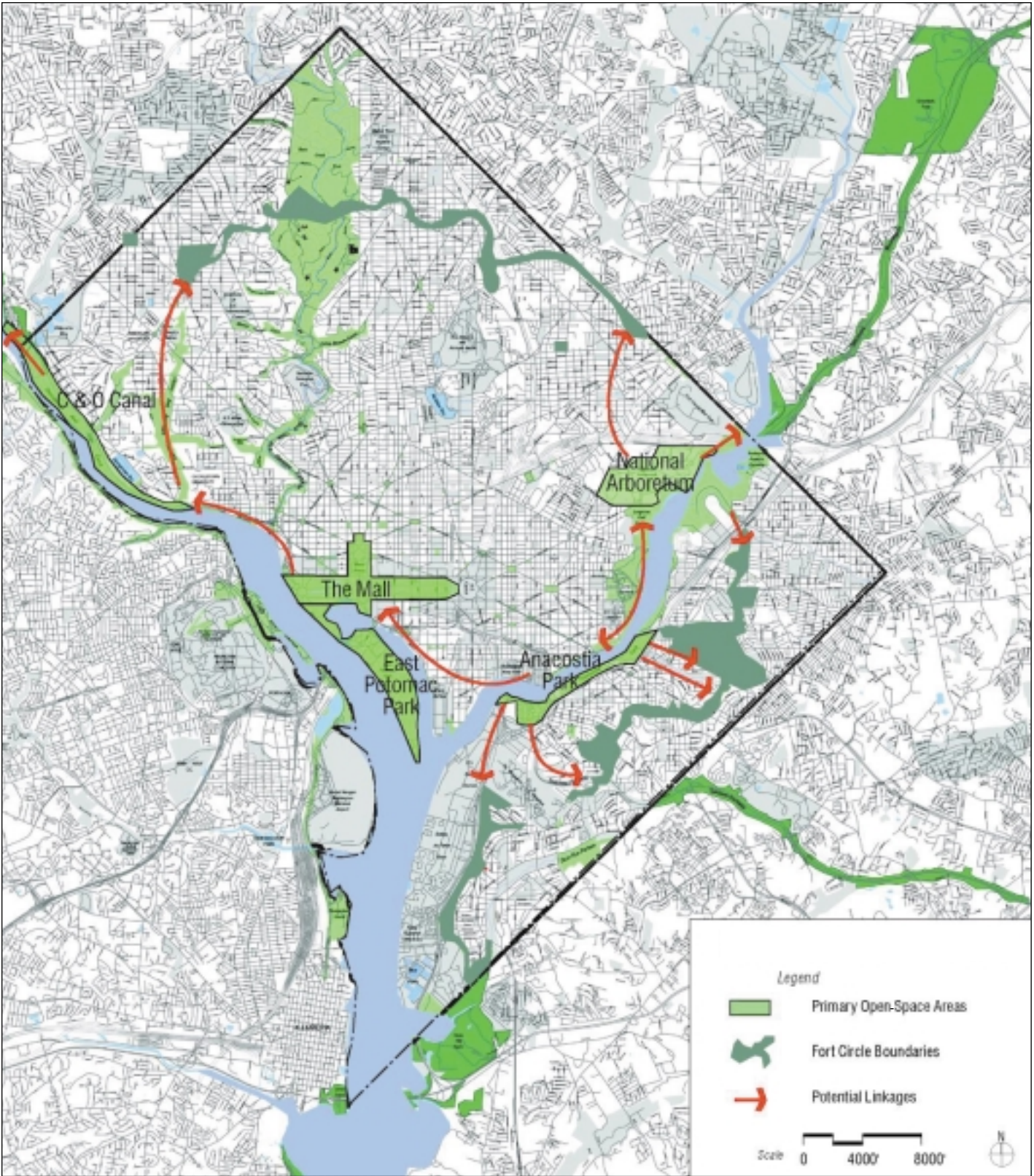


Parks are for active and passive uses and for all ages.



The Third Arm

An expanded park system will include the Anacostia along with the Potomac and Rock Creek corridors and connect to regional trails in Maryland. This will complete (finally) the vision of the 1902 Senate Park Commission, see p.13.



Extending a Regional Park Network
Potential connections will link major parks of Washington into one great system.

Three Other Great American Urban Park Systems



1 Schuylkill River Greenway, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

The Schuylkill River Greenway and Water Trail parallels the Schuylkill River for 11.5 miles from Valley Forge to Philadelphia along a former railroad right-of-way. It passes through several townships and through the 11-acre Upper Schuylkill River Valley Park.

The River Trail attracts walkers, bicyclists, and in-line skaters, and is recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior as part of the National Trails System. The river hosts a very active boating scene, with the crew teams for the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Delaware practicing there, and many amateurboating organizations and rental shops along its banks. The system was created by piecing together several segments of open space released by the abandonment of freight railroad lines.



2 Chicago's Lakefront

Chicago's beautiful lakefront gives it a unique identity among American cities. Between scenic Lake Shore Drive and the shore, three contiguous parks – Jackson Park, Burnham Park, and Grant Park – give people access to Lake Michigan and many recreational settings and facilities. Jackson and Burnham Parks host several of Chicago's important cultural institutions: the Field Museum of Natural History, the Shedd Aquarium, and the Adler Planetarium. Daniel Burnham envisioned the park system in his 1909 plan for Chicago, but it was not completed until 1930.

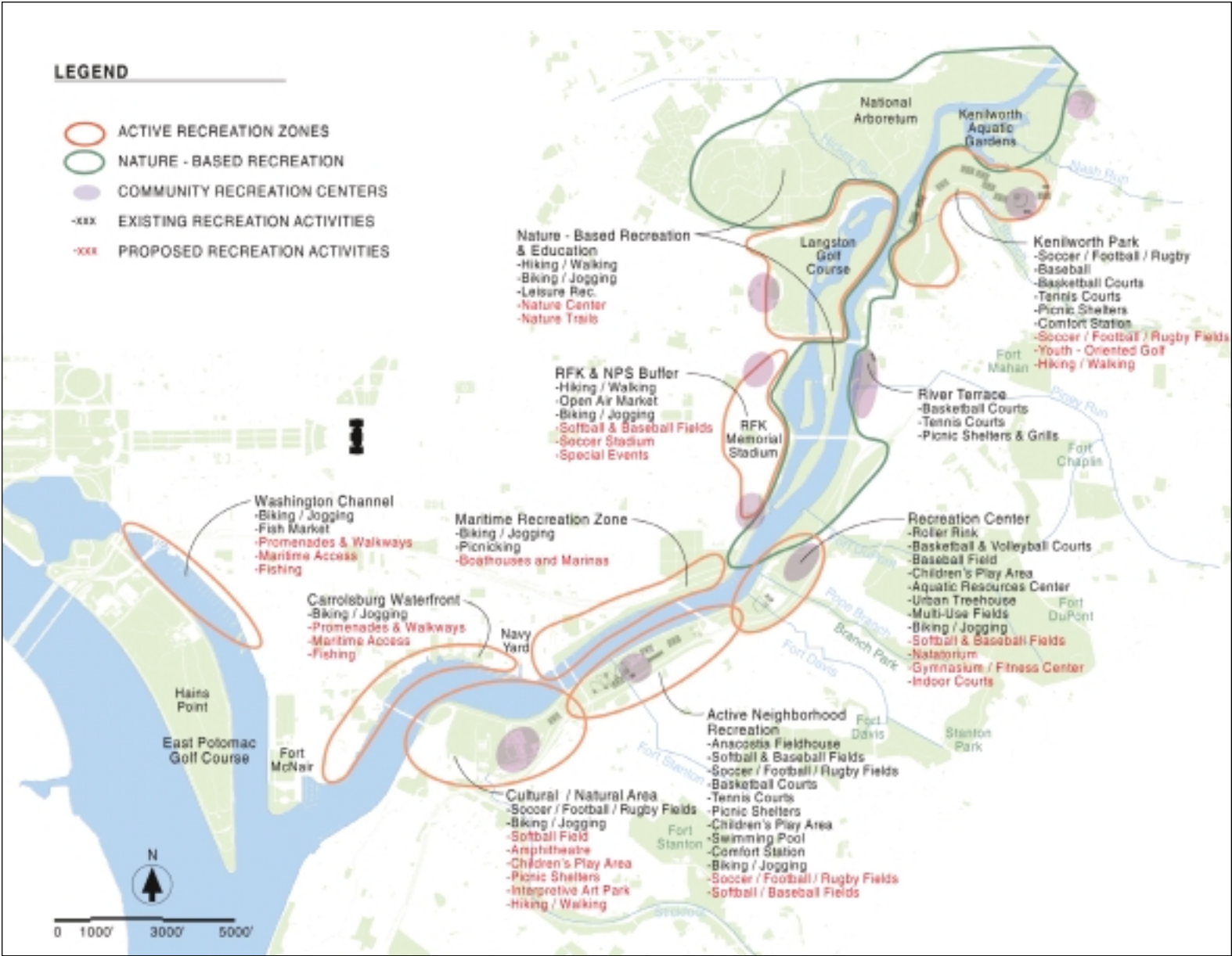


3 Boston's Emerald Necklace

The Charles River Esplanade graces both banks of the Charles River for nine miles, from Boston Harbor to Watertown. Weekends find the paths and lawns of the esplanade crowded with bicyclists, walkers, rollerbladers, and sunbathers. A band shell has hosted popular summer con-certs since 1929. Other offerings include public sailing and rowing facilities, and a children's playground. Construction of the esplanade wasbegun in 1910 and expanded in 1928.

Recreation at the Anacostia RiverParks: Providing a Wider Range of Activities

“With more than 700 acres of water and wetlands, including the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, the Anacostia River is a vital national aquatic resource.”



Existing and Proposed Land Activities Along the Anacostia
These are some of the possibilities and activities that can be accommodated.

Today, the Anacostia waterfront provides only sporadic sites for recreational activities, including rowing, fishing, hiking, golf, roller skating, and organized field sports. The AWI Framework proposes greatly expanding the venues for these and other activities in both variety and number. In addition, the Framework will improve access to and connections between parks and activities, at the same time achieving higher standards of environmental and ecological health.

Land-Based Recreation

Most of the river’s land-based recreation sites will remain on the east side of the river, distributed between Poplar Point, Anacostia, Fairlawn, Twining, and Kenilworth Parks.

North of the CSX railroad crossing, parks will have a more natural character, offering trails, bird-watching, canoeing, and nature education. Bordering the river, these natural recreation environments will act as buffers, protecting habitat from the active recreation areas to be located adjacent to neighborhoods, such as sports fields in Kenilworth Park and the venues associated with RFK Stadium.

South of the CSX crossing, recreation areas are more urban and will be defined by three major activity zones: a major cultural park at Poplar Point; a concentration of playing fields between the 11th Street Bridges and the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge; and a Fitness Center between the latter bridge and the CSX crossing. The Riverwalk will bring people to the water on the west side of the river, stretching from Hill East Meadows past the waterfront parks in the Near Southeast and Southwest to the Tidal Basin and the Mall. The National Arboretum, Langston Golf Course, and the sports venues associated with RFK Stadium will contribute to the diversity of experiences along the RiverParks route.

Such a variety of proposed facilities and venues will make the Anacostia RiverParks a valuable regional recreation resource. However, the waterfront must also serve local neighborhoods. Parklands on both sides of the river will therefore feature playgrounds, playing fields, and shelters, like those currently found in the River Terrace neighborhood.

The figure labeled “Existing and Proposed Land Activities Along the Anacostia” indicates the recreational improvements proposed by the Framework Plan.

Over 1,800 acres of parkland along the Anacostia River will contain an exceptionally diverse recreation program and will establish the RiverPark as a major local and regional destination. By comparison, New York’s Central Park offers only 843 acres. And Boston’s Emerald Necklace sweeps in six linear miles around the city, compared to the Anacostia RiverPark’s nine-and-a half mile circuit around both sides of the river.

Water Uses

With more than 700 acres of water and wetlands, including the stunning Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, the Anacostia River is a vital national aquatic resource that can accommodate much more water-oriented recreation than any other location in Washington, D.C. Kayaking, canoeing, sculling, motoring, fishing, and simply enjoying great views of the city are among the unique activities the river can offer.

Recreation Sites	Area Gained (in acres)
Active Play Area	246
Recreation Center	11
Monument Sites	8+
Art Park	10+
Memorial Gardens	23
Festival Grounds	17+ acres
Amphitheatres	1
Natural Areas	748
Riverwalk, Trails, and Promenades	47.7 miles
Aquatic Gardens	14
Kingman Island Nature Center	1
Other Sites	556
Other Uses, Including Boating Support	remainder

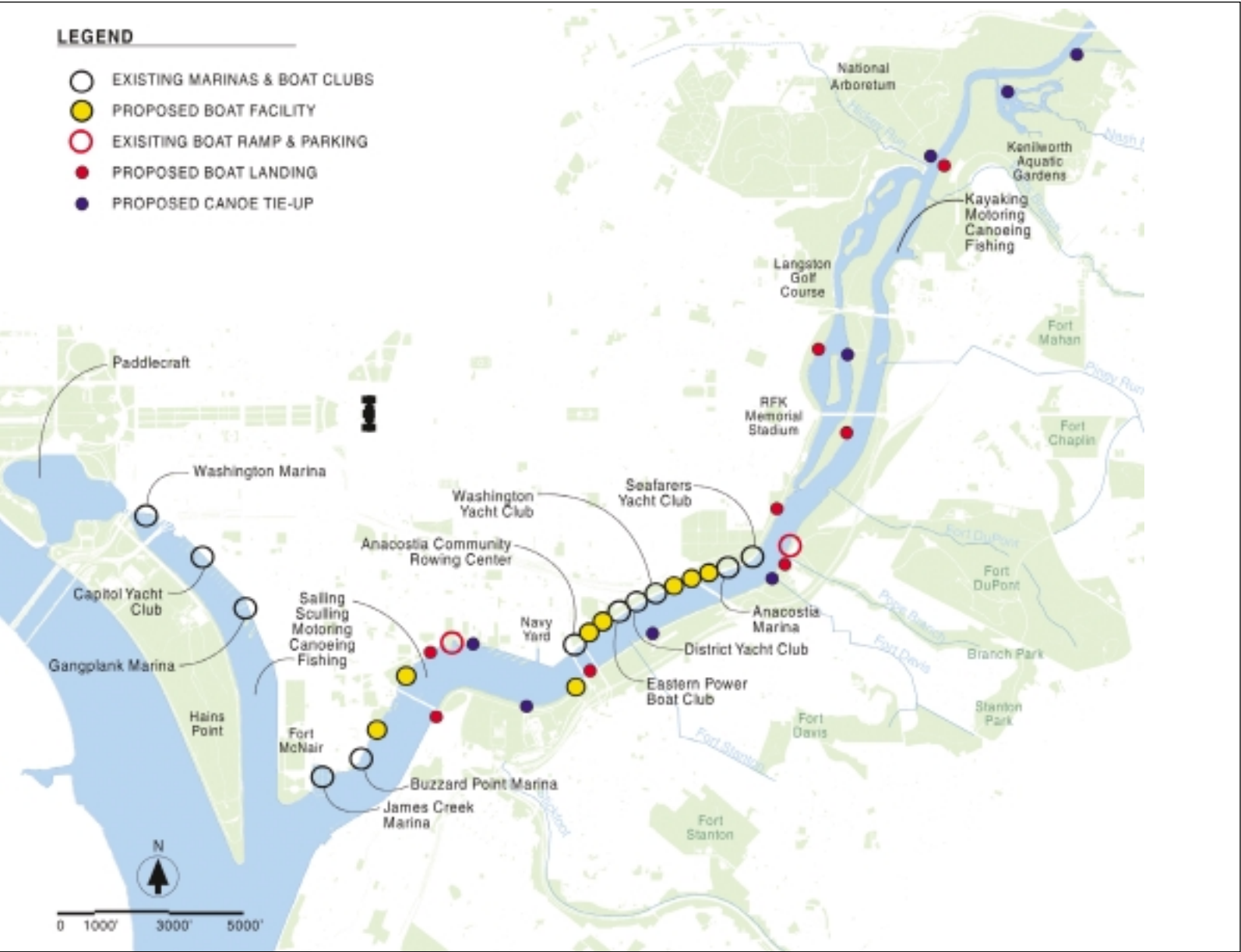
Gains in Recreation Land Area.

Habitat enhancements proposed for the upper reaches of the river will augment a feeling of total immersion into the river wilds, with the din of urban life seemingly miles away. With expanded wetlands, Kingman Lake will be especially attractive as canoeists and kayakers paddle in an environment resembling the river's once natural floodplain. In this upper reach of the river, north of the CSX railroad crossing, no motorized boating will be permitted, with the exception of park and Coast Guard police boats, maintenance craft, and boaters originating in the Bladensburg marina.

By contrast, the lower reaches of the river will host more active boating, particularly sculling. Currently there are seven marina and boating clubs with slips for 600 boats, all on the Washington Channel and the west side of the river. A new Boathouse Row will enhance the existing boat clubs on the west side of the river and add rowing centers. All marinas, public and private, will uphold the city's new "Green Marina" Guidelines.

The east side of the river hosts only a small boat ramp at the northernmost reach of Anacostia Park. In an effort to improve access to water activities from this side, a full refurbishment of the facility is proposed. This would include a paddle boat concession, for easy access under the CSX trestle to the upper reaches of the river. It would also create new boat landings at Good Hope Road, and by the new recreation center just north of the 11th Street Bridges.

A long-term objective for water uses in the Anacostia River is to make the water clean enough for swimming. Cleaning the Anacostia River is a massive effort that requires the implementation of the Combined Sewer Outflow Long-Term Control Plan. It also calls for dedicated, multi-jurisdictional participation from the entire Anacostia watershed – encompassing neighborhoods in Washington, D.C. and Maryland – to curb non-point-source pollution. If a sustained river stewardship effort begins today, the Washington area will be rewarded with a swimmable river by 2025. Swimming beaches will be located in multiple areas, on both sides of the river, for all to enjoy during the city's notoriously muggy summers.



Maritime Activities
Existing and proposed boating facilities along the Anacostia.

Boating on the Anacostia



Kayaking, canoeing, and rowing on the river.

A Continuous Riverwalk of Many Moods

“Places and facilities that bring visitors close to the water will dot the trail along its length, allowing spectacular views of Washington.”

At the top of the recreation and transportation agendas of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative is the establishment of a continuous Riverwalk: a trail along the east and west banks of the river. The proposed Riverwalk is both a recreational amenity and a transportation alternative for Washington-area commuters, connecting neighborhoods to each other and to the greater RiverParks system.

The Riverwalk and its loops will provide 20 miles of waterfront trails between the National Arboretum and the Tidal Basin. With different corridors and loops to choose from, users will find a great variety of experiences and connections from this system to other regional and national trails.

The existing Metro system and the planned light-rail line will interface with the Riverwalk to create a full range of transportation alternatives in the region. The L'Enfant Plaza, Waterfront-SEU, Navy Yard, Potomac Avenue, Minnesota Avenue, Stadium Armory, and Anacostia Stations currently serve different parts of the waterfront. Trail access gateways, route maps, rest rooms, concessions, and information concerning points of interest should be prominent at each Metro station.

The following features will contribute to the Riverwalk's success:

- Design and paving that allows the Riverwalk to safely serve pedestrians, cyclists, and those on roller skates.
- A series of trail loops encircling the RiverParks' distinctive river basins.
- A comprehensive, coordinated sign and information system.
- Easily accessible and clearly marked connections between the Riverwalk and surrounding neighborhoods.
- A host of interesting destinations and activities.

The Riverwalk and Its Route

In order to serve pedestrians, roller skaters, cyclists, and wheelchair users, the primary trail will be paved smoothly in

its entirety, with an average width of 10 to 12 feet to allow plenty of room for passing. The trail will create access to all of the waterfront's major recreation, cultural, interpretive, and entertainment venues.

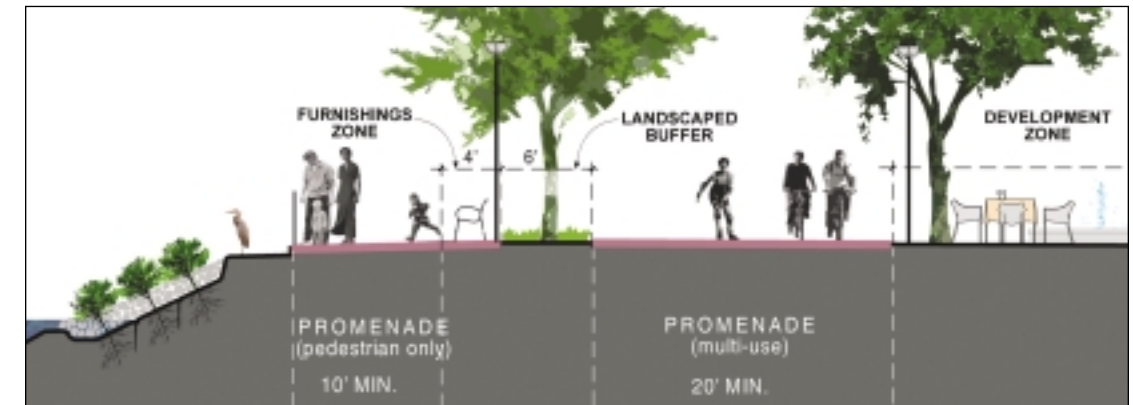
Typically, the Riverwalk will maintain a 50-foot setback from the shore, meandering gently to provide changing views of the landscape, passing through and around a connecting series of parks. Places and facilities that bring visitors close to the water will dot the trail along its length, allowing spectacular views of Washington, D.C.

The Riverwalk will re-establish connections among areas long isolated from one another. As shown in the map opposite, the proposed Riverwalk begins at the Route 50 overpass by Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on the east side of the river and continues downriver along both sides of the Anacostia waterfront to the Southwest waterfront and the Tidal Basin.

The trail will have multiple points at which walkers and cyclists may cross the river on existing bridges or on one of the three proposed pedestrian bridges. This feature will give residents on either side of the river access to parks on the opposite side. In the future, the Riverwalk could be extended around Fort McNair at the confluence of the Anacostia River and the Washington Channel.

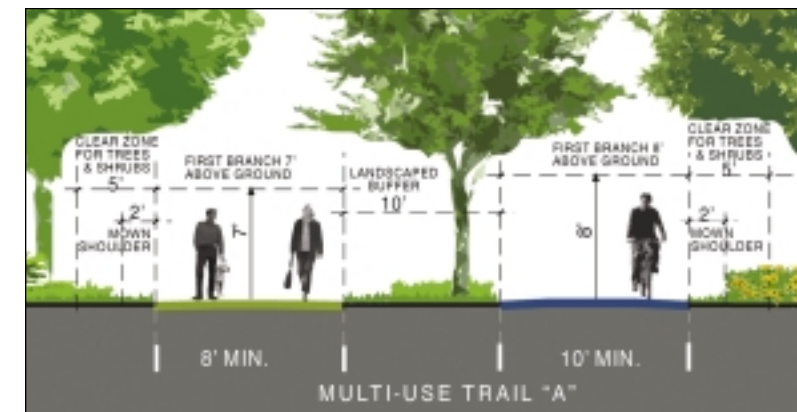
On the east side of the river, where a trail system already passes through Anacostia Park, the Riverwalk will upgrade and expand the current trail system and connect to other trails, such as the Watts Branch Trail, the Fort Circle Trail, the Escarpment Trail, and trails in Maryland.

Over the long term, the Riverwalk may extend southward, past Poplar Point to the Anacostia Naval Annex and Bolling Air Force Base along a shoreline path. Additionally, if the present CSX Blue Plain spur line right-of-way can accommodate a trail once it is converted to light rail, this trail would expand and enhance the Riverwalk with new southward connections. These potential improvements could connect the RiverParks to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, Alexandria, and other waterfront amenities along the Potomac River.



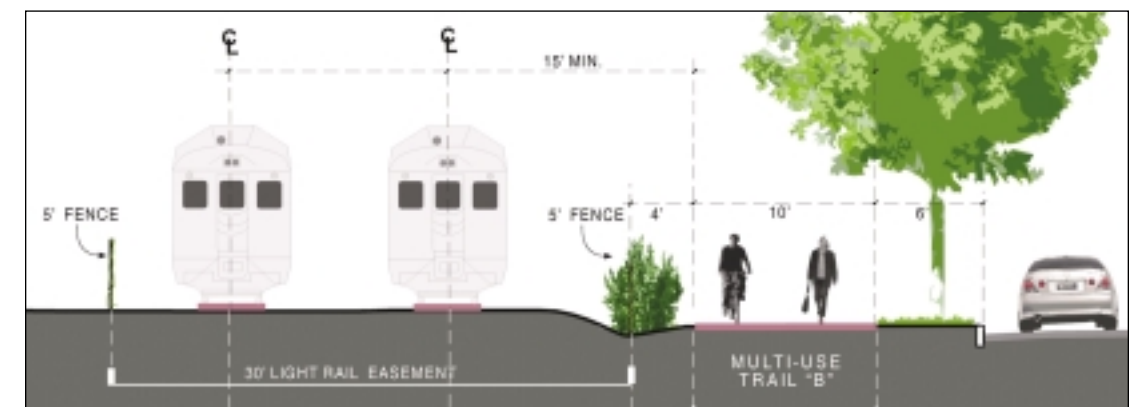
Promenade

Section of a promenade, as proposed along Buzzard Point.



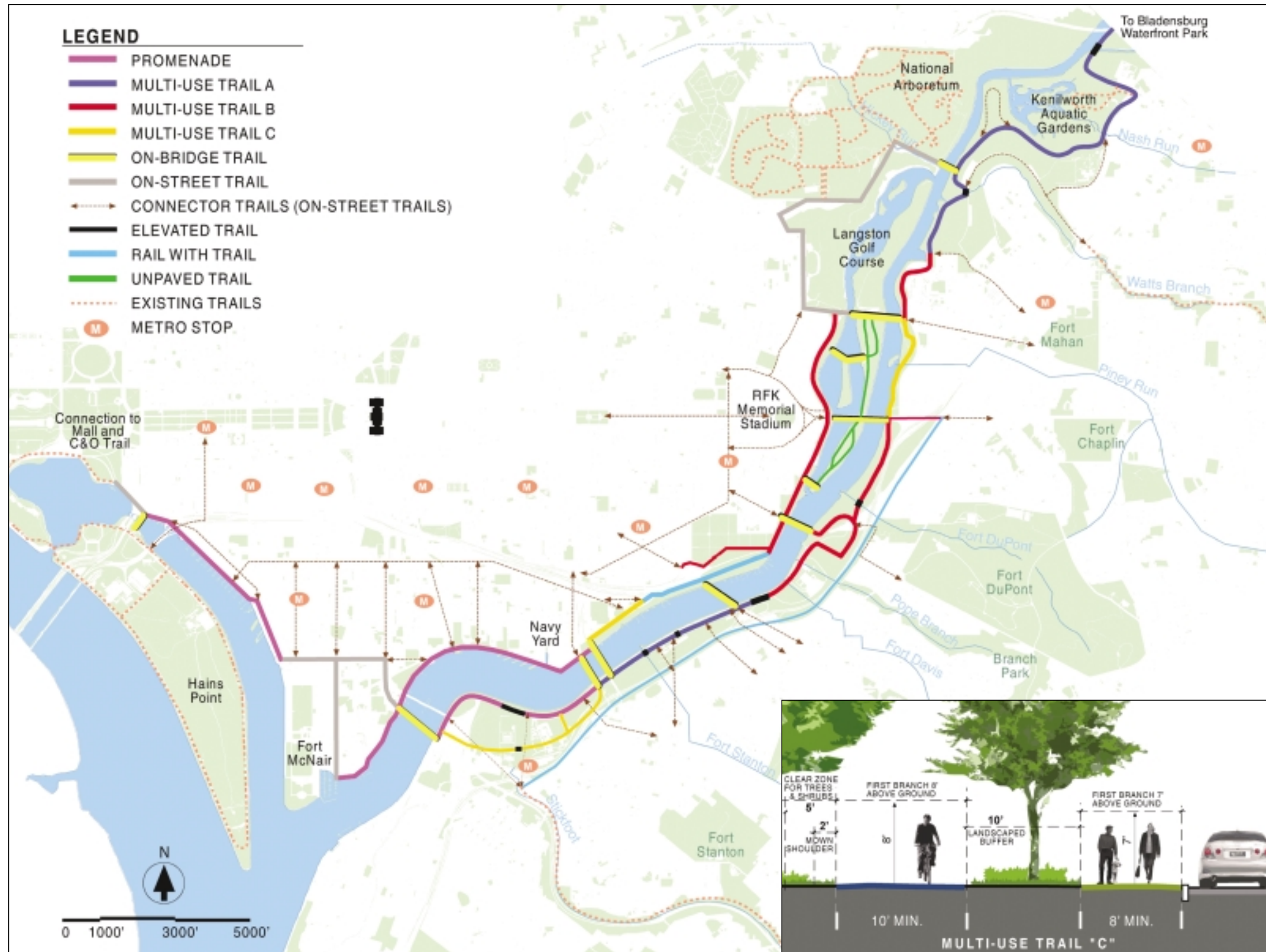
Multi-Use Trail A

Example of parallel Riverwalks: a biking and multi-use path alongside a separate pedestrian path. This is recommended for areas where conflicts between bikers and pedestrians might arise.

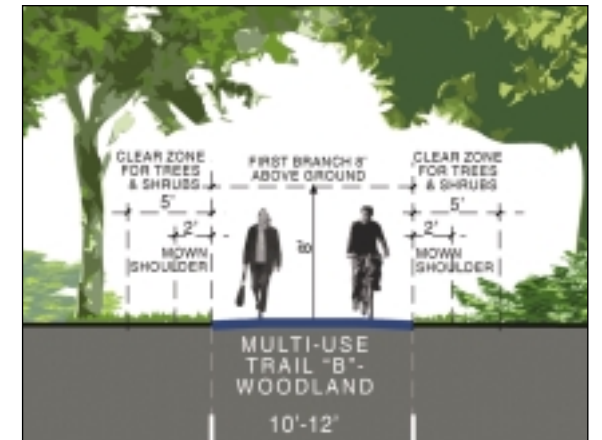


Rail With Trail

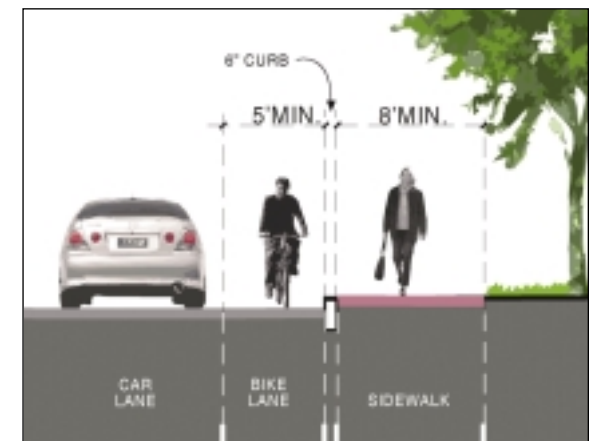
Example of a pedestrian trail beside a light-rail line, as proposed for the CSX Blue Plains spur line, allowing increased access from neighborhoods.



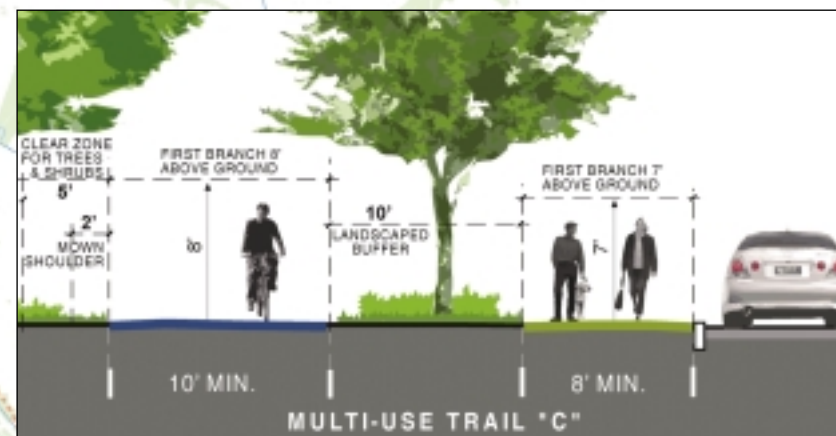
The Varied Character of the Riverwalk Segments
The comprehensive Anacostia Riverwalk and Trail network.



Multi-Use Trail B
A section of a typical segment, in which pedestrians and cyclists share a 10-to-12-foot-wide trail.



On-Street Trail
On-street accommodations, such as those on I Street, will provide a much needed east-west link south of the freeway.



Multi-Use Trail C
Here, a trail segment parallels the sidewalk.



Elevated Trail
Example of raised boardwalk section over wetlands or natural area, to be incorporated as part of tributary crossings or in places where views over wetlands are desired.

Experiencing the Riverwalk: Loops and Connections

“The investment planned along the waterfront must reach into neighborhoods to create economic development opportunities for residents.”

What If... Fort McNair's Waterfront Were Open?

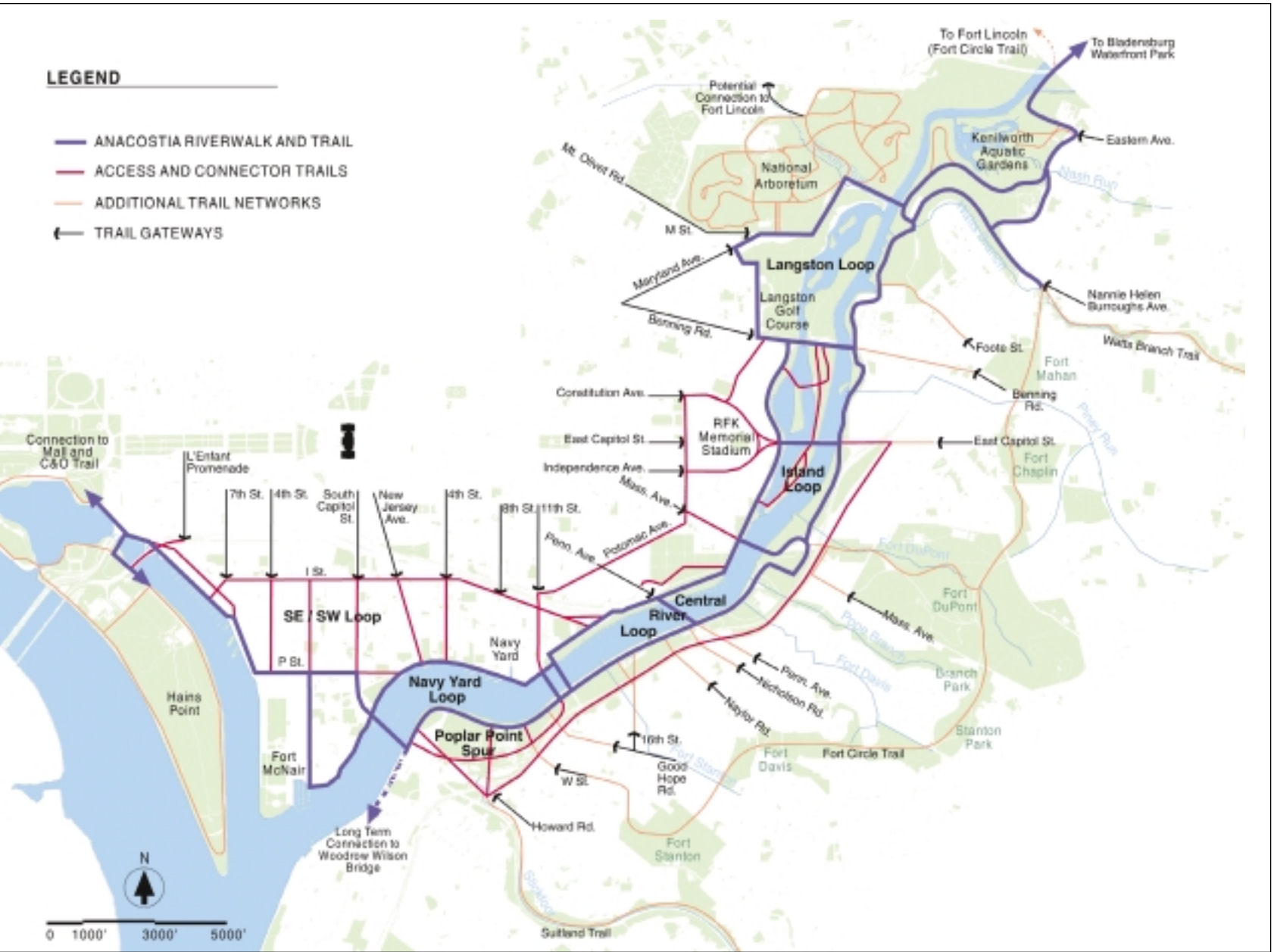


What if Fort McNair's waterfront were opened for public use?

One last remaining section of riverfront – just under one mile in length – is closed to the public. Fort McNair, where the Washington Channel and Anacostia River join, has been an Army post for more than 200 years, second only to West Point in length of service. It is home to the National Defense University.

The military reservation was established in 1791 on 28 acres of what was then called Greenleaf Point. L'Enfant included it in his plans for “Washington, the Federal City,” as a major site for the defense of the capital. An arsenal first occupied the site and defenses were built in 1794. Some years later, Abraham Lincoln's assassins were executed here.

What if Fort McNair's waterfront were opened for public use? The cultural history of the site would be a major attraction for visitors to the nation's capital and would provide a strong anchor at the end of the public esplanades along the Southwest waterfront and the Anacostia River. Much like the Navy Yard to the east, Fort McNair could become more public over time. Current security and force protection guidelines prohibit this kind of public access, but as security technologies and public policy evolve, the shorelines could be opened to the public to connect the eastern and western waterfront promenades.



The Riverwalk and Related Trails
These paths – at the Southwest Waterfront, Anacostia Park, and the Arboretum – show the potentially varied character of the future Riverwalk connection to neighborhood.



The Riverwalk will connect the Anacostia RiverParks to the overall park system of the National Capital area by tying into existing trails. More specifically, the Riverwalk will connect the neighborhoods of eastern Washington to the rest of the city and the region. More localized Riverwalk circuits, or loops, will allow users to experience the different basins along the Anacostia river, and will unite neighborhoods by linking activities and places on either side.

Trail Loops

Langston Loop (approximately 3.3 miles). A new pedestrian bridge between Kenilworth Park and the National Arboretum will create a three-mile loop around the upper basin of Kingman Lake. A portion of this loop will be an urban trail on Maryland Avenue and M Street, while another will consist of a narrow gravel path edging a portion of Langston Golf Course. The Watts Branch Trail will feed into this loop from the eastern side of the river.

Island Loop (approximately 2.7 miles). Another three-mile loop will be drawn between Benning Road and a new Massachusetts Avenue park road bridge. This loop will incorporate an existing path at the River Terrace neighborhood and an existing segment of park road from the East Capitol Street Bridge to the CSX tracks. It will take users to Kingman Island, Hill East Meadows, Congressional Cemetery, and a new Recreation Center at Anacostia Park.

Central River Loop (approximately 3.4 miles). A third loop will encircle the Fairlawn section of Anacostia Park, crossing the river over a boardwalk running alongside the CSX trestle and again over one of the 11th Street Bridges. This loop will run past an enhanced Boathouse Row on the western side of the river and recreation fields on the eastern side.

Navy Yard Loop (approximately 2.3 miles). A fourth loop will connect the Poplar Point cultural park and Historic Anacostia to the waterfront promenades and parks at the Navy Yard and the Southeast Federal Center. A one-and-a-half-mile extension of this last loop through Buzzard Point is also proposed as a means to capture the full length of the western waterfront.

Southeast-Southwest Loop (approximately 3 miles). This loop will connect the peninsula-like area of the city between the Anacostia River and the Washington Channel. From the Near Southeast, the Riverwalk will follow P Street across South Capitol Street to the Southwest waterfront promenade. Trail users will be able to easily connect to the Tidal Basin, the Washington Monument, other parts of the Mall, and the rest of the city. The Southeast-Southwest Loop turns back toward the Anacostia along I Street.

Connecting spurs to Poplar Point, Maryland, and pedestrian routes to Georgetown complete the system.

Rail to Rail-and-Trail

CSX has discontinued service on its Blue Plains rail spur, and the District of Columbia hopes to acquire that right-of-way. WMATA is currently studying the possibility of converting this right-of-way to a light-rail corridor – the first and most critical of three or four to be developed in the next decade. If the width of the Blue Plains right-of-way permits, a walking trail alongside the new light-rail system would further enhance the Riverwalk trail system.

The corridor parallels the Anacostia Freeway for about two miles between Fort Dupont Creek and Howard Road in Historic Anacostia, and would allow pedestrian connections into Anacostia Park at Massachusetts Avenue, opposite the Anacostia High School, at W Street, and Howard Road. Over time, the trail could be extended along the railroad easement towards the Woodrow Wilson Bridge to Alexandria.

Connecting to Neighborhoods

At present, the majority of visitors to the existing Anacostia Park come from the Maryland and Virginia suburbs. Three imperatives suggest the need to better connect the Anacostia waterfront to the neighborhoods immediately surrounding it. First, there is the need to connect the residents of Washington to their own park system. Second, there are ecological connections between the Anacostia River and its tributary streams that must be strengthened as part of the environmental healing of the watershed. Third, the invest-

ment planned along the waterfront must reach into the neighborhoods to create economic development opportunities for residents.

Many of the loop trails that comprise the Riverwalk make use of city streets to connect to neighborhoods such as Lincoln Park, Fairlawn, Marbury Plaza, Randle Highlands, Twining, Penn Branch, Dupont Park, and Buzzard Point. Existing neighborhood trails such as Watts Branch must also be connected to the Riverwalk to provide the residents of related neighborhoods such as Deanwood and Central Northeast with access to the recreational resources of the RiverPark.



Collage showing a new bike and pedestrian path alongside the CSX tracks, using the existing crossing to complete a Riverwalk loop.



More trails such as this one along Watts Branch need to be built and maintained so that they can be used as “green fingers” providing access from the neighborhoods to the waterfront.

A Day on the Anacostia



A Washington Couple's Day Canoeing the Anacostia

10:00 A.M. Catch the RiverPark shuttle from the Visitor's Center at Poplar Point to rent a kayak at the Anacostia Community Boathouse.

10:45 A.M. Paddle up past Boathouse Row and see kids flying their kites at Hill East Meadows and cyclists on the Riverwalk.

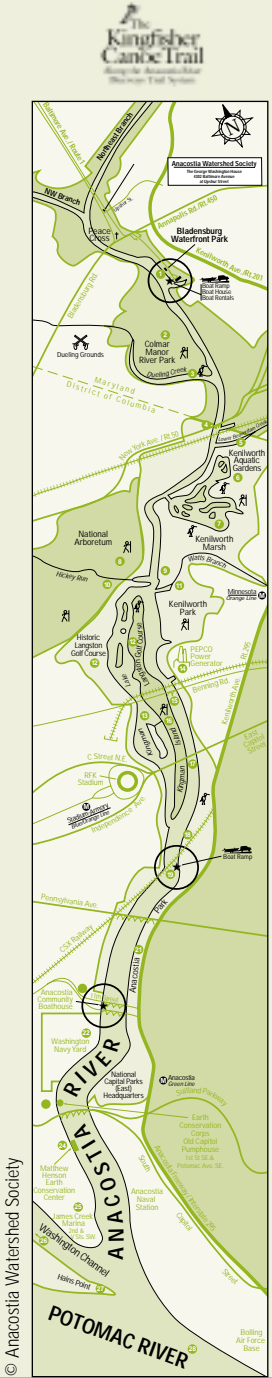
11:30 P.M. Dock at Kingman Island. Visit the Nature Center and follow the self-guided trails.

3:00 P.M. Return the kayak. Hop the RiverPark shuttle back to Poplar Point for lunch and the afternoon jazz concert.

4:00 P.M. The amphitheater seats are filling up fast but you find two together before the music begins.

6:00 P.M. After the concert, walk over to a lively restaurant on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue for dinner. Talk about your friends' upcoming visit; plan their walking tour of Historic Anacostia, the Southwest waterfront and the Tidal Basin.

Water map of the Anacostia's upper reaches from the Anacostia Watershed Society; many maps are available for both water and trail excursions. (see www.anacostiaws.org for more information).



A Washington Family's Day of Paddle Boating and Swimming

9:30 A.M. Your brother and sister-in-law are visiting your new Hill East home by the Anacostia waterfront with their children. Your children want to show them the canoes! You all walk up to the boat launch and find three canoes waiting for you.

10:00 A.M. You head for the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and paddle around the edge while everyone exclaims over the water lilies.

11:30 A.M. The children are hungry. Paddle to Kingman Island with your picnic lunch.

12:30 P.M. From your picnic table you can see the distant shores and low hills of Washington, D.C.

1:30 P.M. Everyone is a little tired. Go home to relax for an hour and grab your swimsuits.

3:30 P.M. Hop the RiverPark Shuttle that passes right near your home on the Park Road.

3:50 P.M. Arrive at the Fairlawn Swimming Pool and watch the children swim.

5:00 P.M. The RiverPark Shuttle takes you back to Hill East. The cousins go home and the family rides bikes on the Riverwalk to the Southwest waterfront to dine at one of the many outdoor cafes.

Creating the RiverParks Network

“Water-based transportation between waterfront destinations will greatly enhance public use and enjoyment of the Anacostia RiverParks.”

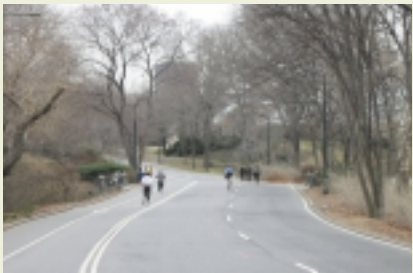
Creative Uses of the Park Road

The Park Road will be open to creative programming:

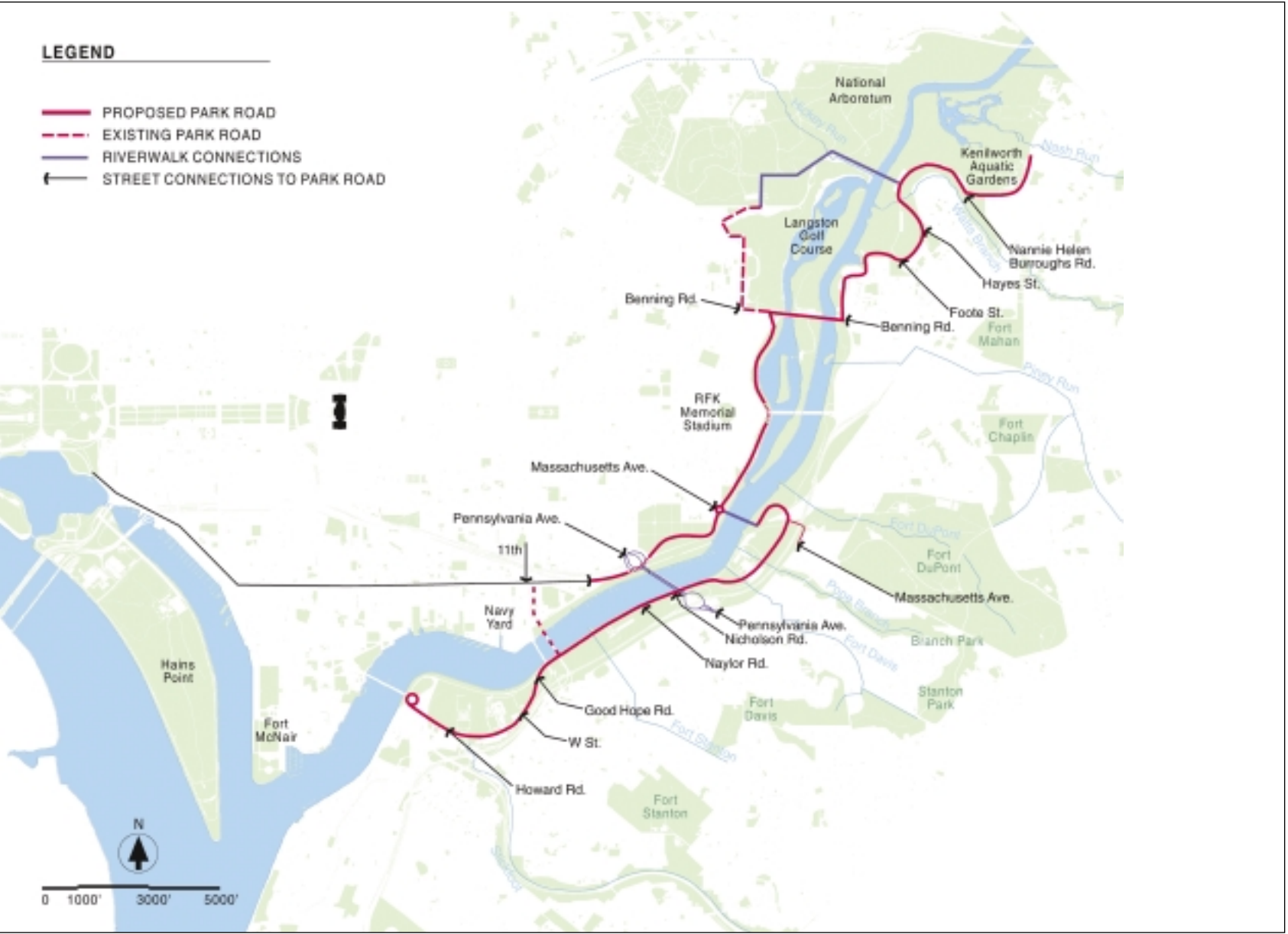
- It can be closed to traffic for exciting events such as foot races, bicycle races, or family rollerblading events.
- It can be closed for pedestrian use or for bicycles at special weekend events.
- Traffic volume on the road can be controlled through one-way designations.
- It can be closed to general traffic during periods of heavy park visitation.
- It can serve a park-wide shuttle system, as in other National Parks.



Weekend closures of Memorial Drive in Cambridge, Massachusetts allow bikers and rollerbladers to use the roadway.



In New York's Central Park, roadways also serve cyclists, skaters and pedestrians.



The Park Road System

The Park Road will connect the RiverParks to one another.

From the air and on the map, the lands bordering the Anacostia River appear as one large, continuous green mosaic. On the ground, they dissolve into a series of discrete and disjointed areas, daunting and nearly impossible to navigate. Only three miles separate Poplar Point from the National Arboretum, for example, yet over city streets this distance more than doubles, requiring the negotiation of freeway ramps and heavy traffic with the aid of very few signs.

Neighborhood residents and park visitors can be helped by a continuous system that connects all elements of the RiverParks, comprising a park road, the Riverwalk trail, water-based transit, and comprehensive signage systems to serve motorists and pedestrians. Clear pedestrian and vehicular gateways from surrounding neighborhoods, and enhanced connections from Metro stops, will further improve access. For motorists, limited parking (designed according to “green” standards) will serve popular facilities.

The Park Road

A park road will connect all of the waterfront's major destinations: the National Arboretum, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, RFK Stadium, Hill East Meadows, the Kingman Island Nature Center, the new Recreation Center in Twining Park, the playing fields in the Fairlawn section of Anacostia Park, and Poplar Point Cultural Park. The road will keep RiverParks traffic out of local neighborhoods and provide access to parking. To achieve this routing, the park road will cross the river at Benning Road Bridge and on the proposed Massachusetts Avenue park road bridge. It must be noted that the Massachusetts Avenue crossing is not proposed as a “cross-town” connector, but rather as a controlled, limited-access road serving the park system only.

The park road will be just 20 feet wide, with parallel parking lanes along selected portions. At peak hours or times of year, a public RiverParks shuttle bus will carry park users back and forth between destinations. Shuttle parking lots will be located in the WMATA parking structure at the

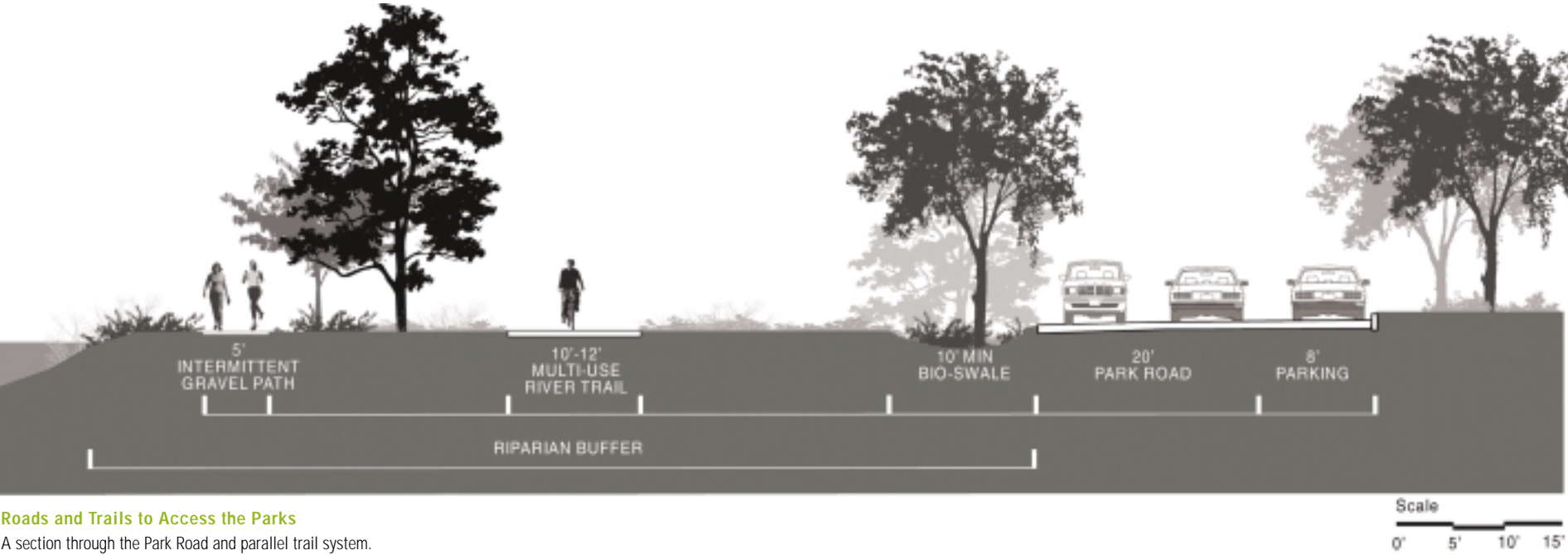
Anacostia Metro and on the RFK Stadium grounds. The shuttle will pick up visitors at Metro stations, encouraging transit use to the RiverParks. Through this access system, the full scope and potential of the RiverPark as a national resource will be realized.

Other Strategies to Improve Access
Green Corridors

In an effort to improve access to and between riverfront destinations, the Framework Plan proposes a green urban corridor paralleling the river on each side. A system of RiverParks signs, informing pedestrians and motorists of nearby waterfront access points and destinations, is part of this proposal. On the east side of the river, landscaping, façade improvements, and new street furniture and lighting will enhance Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue and Minnesota Avenue. On the west side, M Street will be subject to the same treatment. This will facilitate pedestrians’ access from neighborhoods to the Anacostia waterfront, and vice versa.

Water-Based Transportation

Water-based transportation between waterfront destinations will greatly enhance public use and enjoyment of the Anacostia RiverParks. For the park visitor, a water-taxi ride can be not only a convenient connection but an exciting part of the adventure of using the park. By increasing access to all waterfront attractions, water-based transit will support the proposed developments and increase their economic impact on adjacent neighborhoods. Please see Chapter Two for further discussion of water-based transportation.



Roads and Trails to Access the Parks
A section through the Park Road and parallel trail system.

Water Transit Is Fun



“Duckboats” could someday tour the Anacostia and its environs as they tour the Potomac today.



Sightseeing on the Charles River. Boats of this size would work well on the Anacostia.



Ferries transport people to events at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.



The Anacostia RiverParks: a continuous public necklace made up of many wonderful pearls.

Building the Anacostia RiverParks Network One Park at a Time

“Today, the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens has many varieties of water lilies and lotus on display and is also a great place to see birds, frogs, turtles, butterflies, and dragonflies.”

Anacostia Park includes Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens and presently receives 1.7 million visitors annually, demonstrating the significance of natural settings for an urban population. Together with the National Arboretum, Langston Golf Course, Kingman Island, and Kenilworth Park, these parks will form the green heart of the future RiverParks. The AWI proposes to enhance these parks by including new facilities and playing fields and by connecting them to surrounding neighborhoods, public transit, and other parks.

One hundred acres of new parks – located at the Southwest waterfront, the Near Southeast, Poplar Point, and the Hill East waterfront – will add to existing park resources along the Anacostia River. The result will be an extensive and continuous Anacostia RiverParks system connected together and to the neighborhoods, city, and region by the 20-mile-long Riverwalk trail system (Please see map, page 69).

The Anacostia RiverParks will unite 20 separate parks:

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens
Kenilworth Park
Watts Branch Park
The National Arboretum
Langston Golf Course
Kingman and Heritage Islands
Hill East Meadows
Congressional Cemetery Habitat Area

Twining Park and Recreation Center
Fairlawn Park at Anacostia Park
Boathouse Row
Poplar Point Park
Dahlgren Park and Willard Park at Washington Navy Yard
Southeast Federal Center Waterfront Park
Canal Blocks Park
South Capitol Street Gateway Park
Buzzard Point Esplanade
Cultural Park at M Street Terminus
Plazas along Southwest Esplanade
Market Square

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens is located in Northeast Washington, near the Maryland boundary along the Anacostia River. As the only National Park Service site devoted to the display of aquatic plants, it is a popular tourist destination. The Garden's 14-acre sanctuary of exotic lilies was once the private property of Walter B. Shaw, a Civil War veteran whose gentle passion for growing water lilies expanded, over his lifetime, into a commercial water garden. The great system of ponds and dikes connecting to the Anacostia River is probably the reason that, earlier in the last century, the Army Corps of Engineers left the natural marsh here untouched. The Kenilworth Marsh is a semi-natural area that borders the Aquatic Gardens on three sides and is now the only location where the public can experience the once-widespread marshes of the Anacostia River.



A winter view of Kenilworth Park.



Watts Branch as it is today.



The Hill East Meadows Park will be located at the river's edge of Reservation 13.



Twining Park as it is today.

Today, the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens has many varieties of water lilies and lotus on display and is also a great place to see birds, frogs, turtles, butterflies, and dragonflies.¹ Under the AWI, the Gardens will be connected to the rest of the RiverParks by the Riverwalk. A pedestrian bridge from Kenilworth Park to the National Arboretum will facilitate access to the Gardens from the west side of the river. The Gardens will also be easy accessible by canoe, kayak, or paddle boat from the launches at Twining Park and Kingman Island.

Kenilworth Park

Extending north from the PEPCO plant to the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Kenilworth Park offers 180 acres of open area. Formerly used for open burning and as a landfill, the site was reclaimed during the 1970s. Today it is a multi-purpose recreation area with a picnic shelter and ball fields that are a popular location for soccer, rugby, and Frisbee tournaments. Along the perimeter of selected ball fields are managed meadows where the National Park Service has been working to establish native grasses and wildflowers.²

Plans for Kenilworth Park include creating new ball fields and possibly accommodating cultural uses, such as space for open-air concerts, to highlight the unique heritage of Northeast neighborhoods. As part of the Riverwalk, a new pedestrian bridge will connect Kenilworth Park with Langston Golf Course and the National Arboretum. Paddle craft launches, with storage facilities, are proposed along both shores to increase water-based activities in the upper reaches of the river.

Watts Branch Park

The Watts Branch Park runs for one-and-a-half miles through Northeast Washington along a tributary of the Anacostia River. Once a derelict area littered with used needles, trash, and broken glass, the park and its tributary stream are being restored by Washington Parks and People, with the help of thousands of neighborhood volunteers. Improvements will include a natural amphitheater, an exercise course with fitness stations, emergency call boxes, benches, and a bike trail. The restored Watts Branch will once again be a great neighborhood resource and will serve as an important green gateway to the Anacostia RiverParks from the 10 neighborhoods along the tributary's banks.

National Arboretum

The U.S. National Arboretum is administered by the Department of Agriculture to conduct research, provide education, and conserve and display trees and other plants. It is located on the western side of the upper reaches of the Anacostia River. With 446 acres of trees and nine-and-a-half miles of roadways, the Arboretum makes for pleasant strolling. The NPS-owned right-of-way along the Arboretum's waterfront will be part of the Riverwalk and will connect across the Anacostia River to Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens via the new pedestrian bridge.

Langston Golf Course

Langston Golf Course is located just south of the Arboretum and north of Benning Road. Built as part of the Langston Terrace public-housing development, the first for blacks in Washington under the New Deal, this 18-hole, par-72, public course opened in 1939. Langston Golf Course was the first golf course in the country for African-Americans.

Today it remains a popular course and offers a golf school with programs for adults and children, a driving range and, at the shoreline, three marinas, four boat clubs, and a public boat ramp.

Kingman and Heritage Islands

The District of Columbia, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a variety of other partners are currently collaborating on improvements to Kingman Island that include self-guided nature trails, a memorial tree grove, and a new nature center and exhibit area. Pedestrians will reach the island via a newly reconstructed 100-foot wooden bridge.

Over 41 acres of historic tidal freshwater marsh in Kingman Lake have been restored. A paddle boat facility, with a canoe and kayak launch and a parking area, is proposed south of the Benning Road Bridge. From this facility canoeists and kayakers will be able to navigate the Kingman Lake wetland to the National Arboretum and to Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens.

Hill East Meadows

A new mixed-use neighborhood at Hill East waterfront (formerly Reservation 13) will border a new park along the Anacostia River called "The Meadows." At Hill East, Massachusetts Avenue will extend to the waterfront and end in a ceremonial circle and monument facing the river. Hill East Meadows will be a large, grassy area for picnics and kite-flying with superb views of the Anacostia River and connections to the RiverParks system through the Riverwalk and Park Road.

Congressional Cemetery Habitat Area

Congressional Cemetery was established in 1807 and was once the official resting place of Members of Congress. Between Congressional Cemetery and Barney Circle, a natural habitat area – an extension of Hill East Meadows – will border the river and be accessible via the Riverwalk.

Twining Park and Recreation Center

Anchored by the Anacostia Park Pavilion – a popular open-air roller-skating venue – this area of the Anacostia waterfront is the northern part of what most people know as "Anacostia Park." Anacostia Park, however, extends in the upper reaches along both shores. In the future, a new park road bridge aligned with Massachusetts Avenue and Hill East Meadows will make Twining Park a central destination of the RiverParks. Owing to this park's strategic location, a major indoor and outdoor recreation complex is planned, featuring a gymnasium, multipurpose courts, fitness equipment and exercise rooms, climbing walls, a skateboard park, and community meeting space, along with the popular old roller skating pavilion with its wide views of the river. Along the waterfront, facing the proposed Recreation Center, will be a paddle boat launch, a water transit stop, the D.C. Urban Treehouse, and an Aquatic Resource Center. These two educational facilities are products of partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service and the District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation.

Two stream tributaries would be daylighted through this section of the park: Fort Dupont Creek and Popes Branch. Bio-engineered swales and wetland would be integrated with both stream corridors to better filter stormwater and runoff.

¹ <http://www.nps.gov/nace/keaq/>

² <http://www.nps.gov/nace/keaq/>



Fairlawn Park as it is today.

Fairlawn Park at Anacostia Park

Twenty-three playing fields (softball, baseball, football, and soccer) currently occupy this narrow section of Anacostia Park, and are well used by nearby neighborhoods and schools. A Field House and associated pool and play courts will remain as the central attraction of this area of the park, with some repositioning of the fields and courts to make more efficient use of space.

Two underground storm sewers that traverse this site (one being the piped portion of Fort Stanton Creek) will be daylighted through the park, and bioengineered to trap sediments and filter contaminants before they reach the river. Large stands of trees will frame these “green” infrastructure features and provide shade. The trees will also help frame views to the hillsides, and to the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site just up Cedar Hill.

Lowering part of the Anacostia Freeway (I-295) would immeasurably improve access between the adjacent neighborhoods and Fairlawn Park. A seamless crossing from the doorsteps of Anacostia High School and Kramer Junior High School to the athletic fields would be particularly beneficial. In addition, buffering the edges with berms and vegetation will help contain traffic noise and vehicle emissions.

Boathouse Row

Marinas and community boathouses have long dotted the shore between the 11th Street Bridges and the CSX railroad bridge. The recently established Anacostia Community Boathouse is currently the only facility on the Anacostia



Poplar Point as it is today.

River for sculling and hosts an increasing number of local high school teams. In the future, rowers and boaters will enjoy better access to enhanced facilities with the construction of Park Road and the Riverwalk along Boathouse Row.

Poplar Point Park

Poplar Point occupies a prime and highly visible location on the east side of the Anacostia River, adjacent to Historic Anacostia and directly across the river from the Navy Yard and the Southeast Federal Center. At present, the 110-acre area is owned by the National Park Service and accommodates a Metro parking garage, the U.S. Park Police and National Park Service complex and helipad, abandoned tree nurseries, and managed meadows.

The vision for Poplar Point is of a unique waterfront park that blends culture, commemoration, entertainment, recreation, education, and ecology in a beautiful setting. Sixty acres of parkland will contain a variety of uses, including the primary visitors center to the RiverParks, the Anacostia Riverwalk, memorial gardens, outdoor performance spaces, a cultural institution of national prominence, improved recreation fields, and transit-oriented development (TOD), where appropriate.

Poplar Point will showcase the daylighting of Stickfoot Creek as a surface stream, adding about 10 acres of natural habitat to the Point’s forest and wetlands. Most of the existing natural areas will be preserved and managed in conjunction with community gardens, landscape displays, and education facilities. Places to sit, congregate, fish, or picnic will dot the river’s edge along a managed meadow.



Southeast Federal Center, slated for new development with a promenade, two parks, and streetscape improvements.

Dahlgren Park and Willard Park at Washington Navy Yard

As part of its \$400 million renovation, the Washington Navy Yard built two new parks, Dahlgren Park and Willard Park, and a new Riverwalk esplanade along its waterfront. Other attractions include the Navy Yard’s museum, the U.S.S. Barry, and a Navy Art Gallery. While security concerns presently prevent public access to these parks and the esplanade, the Navy is working on improving public access to its waterfront.

Southeast Federal Center Waterfront Park

A five-acre public waterfront open space is planned for the Southeast Federal Center (SEFC) as an attraction for residents, employees, and visitors to the Near Southeast neighborhood. A variety of active and passive elements, such as lawns, plazas, and gardens, will make this park an important amenity for the neighborhood. This park is also a central link in the continuous Riverwalk, as it connects to the Navy Yard esplanade and extends a connection to Buzzard Point and the Southwest waterfront.

The waterfront park will be enlivened by a variety of uses along its perimeter, such as shops, cultural and exhibit spaces, restaurants, and cafes. These elements can be built into the ground floors of adjoining buildings, and the historic Lumber Storage Shed can become a dramatic retail or cultural pavilion within the park.



View of Buzzard Point and South Capitol Street.

Canal Blocks Park

Located just south of Capitol Hill’s Garfield Park, the Canal Blocks Park will occupy three city blocks along the route of the historic Washington Canal that once channeled waterborne commerce between the Potomac River, the Mall, and the Anacostia River. This public park will form the centerpiece of the surrounding residential and mixed-use community. It will serve restful uses and provide gathering space for this emerging neighborhood.

South Capitol Street Gateway Park

The terminus of South Capitol Street at the Anacostia waterfront offers an ideal opportunity for a new, monumental gateway to the U.S. Capitol. The new park will lead to a rehabilitated South Capitol Street, designed for pedestrians and businesses as well as cars. It will be visible to those passing above on the Frederick Douglass Bridge. Furthermore, the AWI vision calls for a new bridge to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, and local traffic, to be connected to the shoreline at or near the new park rather than passing over it. Small park areas will also adjoin the Matthew Henson Conservation Center and the Earth Conservation Corps Pump House.

Buzzard Point Esplanade

Located between South Capitol Street and the Southwest waterfront, Buzzard Point overlooks the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. A reconstructed Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge and a new park at the terminus of South Capitol Street will mark the gateway to Buzzard Point. This industrial area has been recently rezoned to allow



Washington Channel as it exists today.

mixed-use development and requires a 75-foot setback from the waterfront to ensure a Riverwalk esplanade. P Street, which connects the Anacostia River to the Washington Channel, will also be a primary Riverwalk link and will be refurbished with additional trees, street lighting, signs, and improved walkways and bicycle lanes to enhance its function as a connector between the Anacostia River and the Washington Channel. Currently, the Earth Conservation Corps' Matthew Henson Center (with the city's only green roof) and marinas, such as the James Creek Marina, bring vitality to this area.

Cultural Park at M Street Terminus

Anchored by the existing Arena Stage and the Waterfront retail development, the M Street Cultural Park will be a relaxing green setting for visitors to two new cultural institutions, while providing a grand waterfront gateway at the terminus of M Street to the Southwest waterfront.

Plazas Along Southwest Promenade

A wide promenade paralleling the Washington Channel will gather people at the Southwest waterfront, offer outdoor cafes and restaurants, public piers, marinas, and views of Hains Point and East Potomac Park across the water. Four small parks and plazas are planned along the promenade. The promenade will connect the Cultural Park at M Street to the Market Square on the northern end of the Southwest waterfront.

Market Square

The Market Square will be located at the northwest end of the Southwest waterfront, across from the 10th Street Overlook and adjacent to the Fish Wharf. Drawing on the commercial maritime history of this waterfront, the square will be a lively public gathering space that will accommodate diverse uses such as green markets, festivals, and performances. The Market Square will also function as a link between the Southwest and L'Enfant Promenade, providing needed access to the waterfront from the heart of the Mall, just minutes away but today seeming much more distant.

Unifying Disparate River Parks into the Anacostia RiverParks

With so many different kinds of places along the Anacostia River, how will you know when you're in the Anacostia RiverParks?

Between the National Arboretum and the Tidal Basin, 20 separate parks, preserves, and recreational centers will form the Anacostia RiverParks system. Currently, the 20 parks are managed by separate agencies, including the National Park Service, the District of Columbia, the Department of the Interior, and private organizations. Within this layered system of governance, a consistency of image must be presented to provide clear signals to park users, denoting continuous public access to the RiverParks.

All the parks should share a high standard of design, for beauty, public comfort, and maintenance. Standard trail widths and pedestrian amenities such as benches and lighting, along with thoughtful landscaping, will also characterize the RiverParks as a unified system. The Anacostia Riverwalk, a continuous network of trails, is essential to ensure the high volume of users necessary for safety. Regular maintenance of the Riverwalk and surrounding landscape must be ensured so that park users are encouraged to explore the entire system.

The Riverwalk is the perfect context through which to weave interpretive signage and heritage information, since it is a constant that passes through diverse parts of the city. A sign and information system must unite all parts of the RiverParks and Riverwalk systems. This system will help visitors find their way and will interpret local history and points of interest for them. All signs and sign structures will share a common RiverParks/Riverwalk logo and design. Information, logos, and maps of the system should be posted at all entrances and junctions within the RiverParks System.



Identity

Imagining a unified system of signs for the Anacostia RiverParks.



Interpretation

The signs in this Pittsburgh Park offer interpretations of local sites.



Information

The Paris Metro signs are easily by any visitor.

A Day in the Life

It's been a long, lovely day touring the nation's capital. After visiting museums and monuments on the Mall, you and your family walk to the Jefferson Memorial, splendid at sunset. You do a little window-shopping at Market Square, just steps away, and then order dinner at one of the fabulous outdoor restaurants along the Southwest waterfront. Afterward, you enjoy a relaxing nighttime stroll along the waterfront promenade, take a seat on the public pier to watch the boats moored peacefully in their Washington Channel marinas, and gaze at the twinkling stars.

Artist's rendering of a new Market Square at the Fish Wharf in the Southwest waterfront. Just blocks from the National Mall, the Southwest waterfront will attract visitors from the city, the region and the nation.

